

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – April 25, 2012**  
**MINUTES**

Present: Gregg Schuster, First Selectman, Selectmen: Rosemary Coyle, James Ford, Stan Soby; Board of Education: Ron Goldstein, Chairman, Donald Kennedy, John Reeve, Bradley Bernier; Maggie Cosgrove, CFO; Board of Finance: Robert Tarlov, Chairman, Rob Esteve, Arthur Shilosky, John Ringo, Cathy Pompei; Nancy Bray, Town Clerk, Adam Turner, Town Planner, Walter Cox, Fire Chief, James Paggioli, Public Works Director, and 57 townspeople.

Meeting was called to order by Gregg Schuster, First Selectman, at 7:32 p.m.

Motion that Nicholas Norton be Moderator made by Stan Soby, seconded by Don Kennedy.  
Motion to close nominations made by Stan Soby, seconded by Jim Ford. MOTION CARRIED.  
Motion that Nick Norton be Moderator. SO VOTED AND CARRIED.

Moderator asked Town Clerk, Nancy A. Bray, to read the warning of the meeting.  
Motion to waive reading of entire text of Resolutions made by Jim Kelly, seconded by Gail Therian. SO VOTED AND CARRIED.  
Town Clerk read shortened version of warning; full text of all resolutions, a copy of which has been made available to all those in attendance, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Motion to move Item #1, To consider a resolution to appropriate \$3,275,000 for costs related to improvements to various Town roads including road reconstruction, pavement enhancement, surface treatment, and related work and improvements, substantially as described in the document entitled "Town of Colchester, CT, Fiscal Year 2013 Ten-Year Road Improvement Program, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, made by Stan Soby, seconded by Rob Esteve.

Discussion:

Roz Loiacono asked if road maintenance should be an operating expense instead of a bonding expense?  
Maggie Cosgrove explained that the money is not to maintain the roads but rather to bring them up to par.  
Jim Paggioli, Public Works Director, said that this project consists of road reclamation, resurfacing, etc.  
Rob Tarlov and other members of the Board of Finance support the improvement program.  
Jim Kelly stated that the Town has been down this road before where we bonded the roads, didn't keep up with the work and now we are bonding again.

Moderator called for voice vote on Item #1, SO VOTED AND CARRIED.

Motion to move Item #2, To consider a resolution to appropriate \$1,200,000 for costs related to the refurbishment of a heavy rescue vehicle owned by the Town, and the acquisition of a fire suppression engine tank (1,000 gal. water capacity, with single stage 2,000 gal. per minute pump), as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, made by Stan Soby, seconded by Jim Kelly.

Discussion:

Jim Kelly was at the Fire Department meeting where they talked about the need for these items and he agrees with buying the new equipment as well as refurbishing the other piece of equipment; he added that the BOF cut back on the number of vehicles to purchase.

Moderator called for voice vote on Item #2, SO VOTED AND CARRIED.

Motion to move Item #3, To consider a resolution to appropriate \$615,000 for costs related to the acquisition by the Town, for the purpose of supporting farmland preservation and for other municipal purposes, of a parcel of land known as 110 Prospect Hill Road in Colchester, now or formerly owned by Klaus Horst Slembek and Kathleen Goggin, and consisting of an approximately 75.59 acres, and the buildings and improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, made by Stan Soby, seconded by Jim Kelly.

Discussion:

Frank Lavech wanted to know who inspected this land?

Adam Turner, Town Planner, replied that he had the land appraised and invited Mr. Lavech to walk the land anytime he is available.

Frank Lavech would like Mr. Turner to explain to the people what the Town is buying.

Adam Turner said that the Town is seeking to secure an 800 acre corridor of open space. This property is protected farmland which the Town is looking to sell eventually to a farmer.

Frank Lavech wants to know if the Town is becoming a landlord and or real estate agent?

Monica Swyden asked what the sale price is and what portion would be covered by grants?

Adam Turner replied that the sales price is \$540,000 and he would attempt to secure some funding from grants.

Lisa Hageman would like to thank Mr. Turner and the Town for bringing this piece of property to a meeting so that it may be preserved. She is happy to be supporting the purchase.

Dot Mrowka asked if the person who owns the property could go somewhere else to have the piece protected as a farm? Rob Tarlov answered that yes it would be possible if landowner was willing.

Moderator Norton stated that the end result would not be the same.

Frank Lavech lives next door to Ruby Cohen property, nothing is being done over there – it's not mowed, etc. He had four pieces of land around that property which he ended up losing money on after the town purchased Ruby Cohen.

Citizen #3 mentioned that the primary reason for purchasing the property was the rural character; he supports the purchase.

Chris Bourque said farms are disappearing and we need to protect them so developers do not get them. He urged the room to support the purchase of this piece of property.

Jim Kelly asked about market conditions, is it feasible to purchase at this time and can the town lease to a local farmer?

Moderator Norton answered that the property will be controlled by the grant parameters.

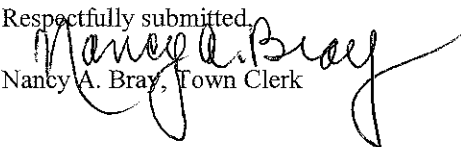
Jim Ford worked with Adam Turner talking to the Farmland Trust who said that the market is robust in the northeast.

Moderator called for voice vote on Item #3, three no's, the rest were yes's, SO VOTED AND CARRIED.

The Moderator declared that the town meeting was adjourned to a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and that the resolutions would be placed upon the ballots; Motion made by Stan Soby, seconded by Jim Ford at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Bray, Town Clerk



Nancy A. Bray  
TOWN CLERK

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COLCHESTER, CT